

**W Claim:**

1. A method for treating persons suffering from acute or chronic degenerative conditions or diseases of the eye which comprises administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a histone deacetylase inhibitor.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the condition or disease is selected from the group consisting of: glaucoma; dry AMD; RP and other forms of heredodegenerative retinal disease; retinal detachment and tears; macular pucker; ischemia affecting the outer retina; cellular damage associated with diabetic retinopathy and retinal ischemia; damage associated with laser therapy (grid, focal, and panretinal) including photodynamic therapy (PDT); trauma; surgical (retinal translocation, subretinal surgery, or vitrectomy) or light-induced iatrogenic retinopathy; and preservation of retinal transplants.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the condition or disease is dry AMD.

4. The method of Claim 2 wherein the condition or disease is glaucoma.